

FAQ - Certificate of Specialization in International Law

Q: Do I need to submit an application if I've fulfilled the certificate requirements, or will I be automatically considered?

A: YOU NEED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION. The application can be found on the [Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law website](#).

Q: How do I submit the application? When is it due?

A: E-mail the completed application to <InternationalLawCertificate@law.berkeley.edu>. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis during the Fall and Spring semesters. The final due date is April 1 of each year (or November 1 for December graduates). Only graduating students are eligible to apply.

Q: Can I waive out of the basic four-unit International Law class?

A: Waivers are granted in very rare exceptions, based on demonstrated mastery of five major areas of international law that are covered in the basic four-unit course at Berkeley Law. All waiver requests must be submitted before the end of the Fall semester (or by August 31 for December graduates). Waiver requests will not be considered during the Spring semester in your year of graduation. It's possible for LL.M. students to waive out of taking International Law, but you will need approval for the course or courses you took previously at another university and now wish to substitute for the Berkeley Law International Law course. Email your prior university transcript along with a grading key or statement about how your grades demonstrate excellence, and indicate the professor and type of class. Generally, waivers are not possible for J.D. students, with limited exceptions including for transfer students, who would follow the procedure outlined above for LL.M. students. Students who are allowed to waive the basic International Law course after approval by the Faculty Advisors will need to take another four units of international or comparative law courses at Berkeley Law, toward the total Certificate requirement of thirteen units.

Q: Can I use written work produced in the Human Rights Law Clinic to satisfy the writing requirement for the International Law certificate?

A: We approve work written for clinics as fulfilling the "major research paper" requirement on a case-by-case basis. Email the International Law Certificate coordinator with the topic of your work, the name of your supervisor and the approximate page count. If your topic is provisionally approved, we'll ask for a confirming note from the supervising faculty member.

Q: What are the requirements for the writing component of the Certificate?

A: Students need to provide a 20- to 30-page major research paper on an international or comparative law topic written while attending Berkeley Law.

Q: Can a student count course units for a class in which they received an IP grade toward the course unit requirements?

A: Yes, as long as the professor emails to confirm that the student is on track to have the IP removed.

Q: Do the Human Rights Law Clinic and Seminar both count as course units for the “other International Law units” requirement?

A: Yes.

Q: Does participation in BJIL (*Berkeley Journal of International Law*), JMEIL (*Journal of Middle Eastern & Islamic Law*), or an international law moot court competition count toward Certificate credit?

A: Yes, BJIL or JMEIL service or participation in an international law moot court competition can count as one unit toward the Certificate (one-unit maximum from this group). Your transcript must reflect your credit earned for participation in any of these activities for which you want to earn credit toward the Certificate.

Q: Does work in a Student-Initiated Legal Project count toward Certificate credit?

A: No.

Q: Do the unit requirements have to be completed earlier than my last semester?

A: No, you may list classes and papers that will be complete at the end of your final semester.

Q: If I fulfill the Certificate writing requirement by taking an independent study course (299), will those credits count as International Law credits?

A: Independent Study credits are approved on a case-by-case basis. You will need to email the International Law Certificate coordinator with your topic and the name of your supervisor.

Q: The paper I plan to submit won't be finished until the end of the last semester of my graduating year. Can I submit a draft?

A: It's possible, but it will need to be approved by your supervising faculty member. You'll need to send a description of the paper and the name of the professor supervising the paper. If it is approved, you'll need to send the completed paper by the end of the semester.

Q: Who are the International Law Certificate Faculty Advisors?

A: Professor Laurel E. Fletcher and Professor Katarina Linos are the Faculty Advisors of the International Law Certificate program.

Q: Who is the International Law Certificate administrative coordinator?

A: Ms. Toni Mendicino, who can be reached at InternationalLawCertificate@law.berkeley.edu.